

Guatemala the Next Chapter in Pan-American Affairs



GUATEMALA INDIAN WOMEN AS BURDEN BEARERS.

BY CHARLES M. PEPPEER.

GUATEMALA is expected to open the next chapter in pan-American affairs. A sequel to the A. B. C. mediation in Mexico is foreshadowed. The foreshadowing is not done by President Estrada Cabrera of Guatemala, but what the Latin Americans call an international situation is developing.

Undue importance should not be given to reports of the plans of revolutionary Juntas in New Orleans, nor of Central American "liberal leaders" in New York. The chief executive of Guatemala sometimes finds it convenient to let advance notices be given out regarding revolutionary plots against his government. The plotting always is going on, so that the news in a way correct; but it serves the purpose of the Guatemalan government to let the revolutionists know that their actions are being watched. Sometimes, also, they are curbed by this sort of publicity, and there is a period of quiescence.

Those conversant with Central American affairs, therefore, do not lay great stress upon prospective revolutions in Guatemala. The other Central American executives may speculate tentatively as to when President Cabrera will be overthrown, but usually their speculations are purely abstract. He has maintained himself in power for eighteen years, and it would be a rash prophet who would undertake to say that his power will come to an end at any fixed time.

The situation which is developing, nevertheless, has some unusual features. One relates to the actual relations with Mexico; the other has to do with the so-called moral force of the precedent made by the United States in dealing with Mexico since the present national administration came into power.

President Cabrera has been called the "Diaz of Guatemala," and he has many of the qualities of Porfirio Diaz. The Central American, or many of them, who credit the Guatemalan executive with being another Diaz, are arguing, with the logical consistency which is characteristic of the Latin American mind, that, since Diaz was upset, President Cabrera, too, must be upset. They cite many parallels in the similarity between social and economic conditions in Mexico and Guatemala; but their principal line of reasoning is that since the moral influence of the United States was antagonistic to the spread of Central American, and Guatemala is certain to feel its effect in the person of President Cabrera.

Against this reasoning other Central Americans argue that since President Wilson, at the beginning of his administration, laid down a stern rule

SEQUEL to A B C Mediation in Mexico Is Foreshadowed—International Situation Developing, According to the Latin Americans—Reports of Plans of Revolutionary Juntas in New Orleans Are Not Given Much Importance—The Respective Revolutions in Guatemala Do Not Receive a Great Deal of Attention—Efforts to Overthrow President Cabrera, Who Has Been in Power for the Last Eighteen Years—Unusual Features of the Situation. American Railroad Interests in Guatemala.

American republic which was given a formal part in the recent pan-American conference. The Central American countries showed no jealousy on this account. They recognized the geographical relation, and they were also aware of the political considerations which made it desirable that Guatemala should participate in any pan-American conference which had for its purpose bringing peace to Mexico.

Reports were current of friction between the revolutionists along the southern border, who gave a nominal allegiance to Carranza, and the Guatemalan authorities. It was asserted that the Guatemalan revolutionists were receiving encouragement from the Carranzistas; but so long as there was no de facto government in Mexico nobody could be held responsible.

President Cabrera always has shown diplomatic acumen, and it is not out of the question that he was more averse to giving Carranza de facto recognition than he would be to Villa or Zapata. The point for his government was to have some sort of a government in Mexico, so that it might be held to be made and which could be held to be responsible. This condition having been established, there is no doubt whatever that President Cabrera will insist on holding the Carranzistas to a very strict accountability for border plots and hostile expeditions against Guatemala.

Neighboring feeling never has been strong between Mexico and Guatemala. Many years back, when James G. Blaine was seeking to initiate a broad and generous policy toward all the Latin American countries, Guatemala appealed to the United States for protection against Mexico's assumed ambition to annex Guatemalan territory. In an answer to this state paper in the form of a letter, Senator Romero, the Mexican minister in Washington, Mr. Blaine laid down certain principles regarding territorial aggrandizement which, he intimated,

Chiapas has shown considerable independence of all the factions. At one time it was reported to be in the movement with the adjoining states to form a new republic, but this movement never got farther than the exercise of an unusual degree of local independence. If the state is handled wisely by the Carranzistas there need be no trouble. If it is handled arrogantly and with indifference to local interests the prospect of the southern segment of Mexico precipitating an imbroglio between the de facto Carranza government and Guatemala is not remote.

The international bridge over the Suchiate has a military advantage on both sides of the river. When the pan-American railway reached the southern frontier the expectation was that the Guatemalan railway lines would be linked up to the river bank and that the bridge would be the international link. President Cabrera had been very strong in his railway policy, and had extended the lines from Guatemala City so that the linking up could be easily done.

Since American politicians, one of them a former cabinet officer and another one an ex-minister, formed a syndicate to take over the Tehuantepec railway to the border, and part of the bonds were placed in the United States. They took for themselves, in their part of the transaction, the bridge. The presumption was that it would yield as great profits proportionally as the bridge across the Mississippi at St. Louis.

One factor was lacking in this calculation; they had not taken into ac-

count the President of Guatemala. His railway lines stopped within just a mile of the bridge.

The situation in Mexico was given as the reason why the last mile was not linked up, which would give Guatemala City through railway connections with New York City. This missing mile is not likely to be supplied until Guatemala has a president who is friendly to American interests.

Cabrera is fully satisfied as to future events in Mexico.

The relation of Guatemala to the other Central American countries does not present so many angles as does that to Mexico. Guatemala as the largest country in Central America always has been under the suspicion of the other countries that she sought to dominate them. She has had some able generals, who have undoubtedly cherished this ambition, but when the dictator, President Rufino Barrios, fell at the head of his troops this prospect was ended in the military sense. Thereafter, any power which Guatemala exerted was through the underground channels of Central American diplomacy.

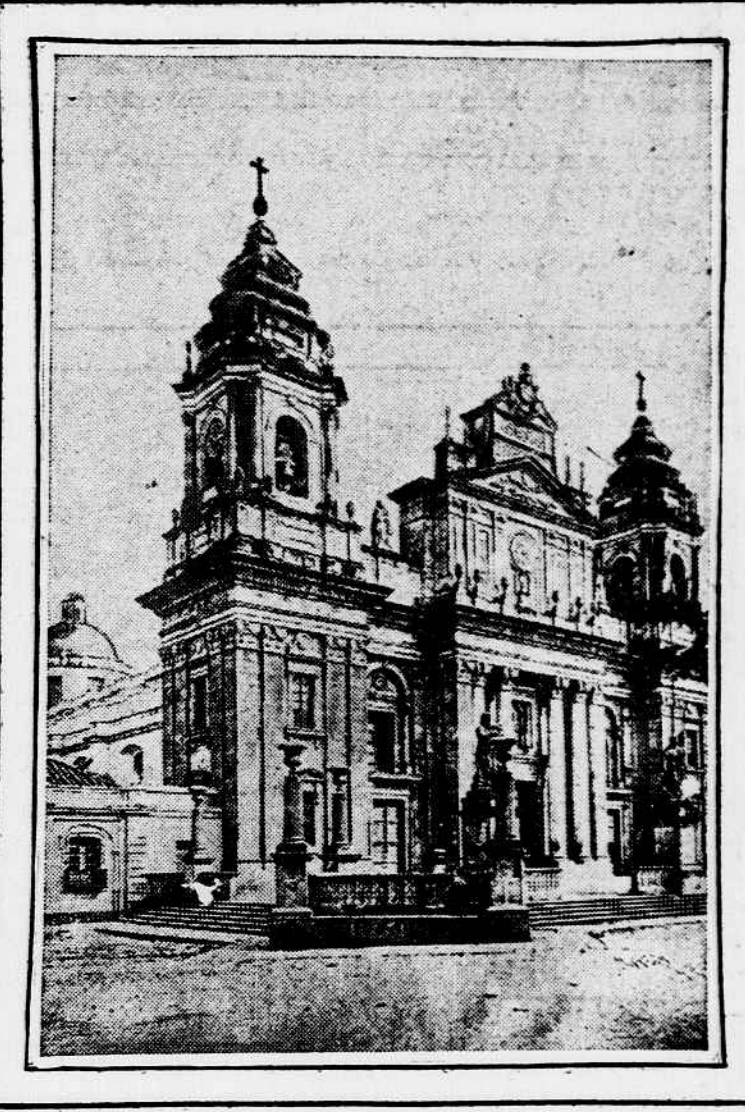
The official attitude of Guatemala in relation to the other Central American countries has been that of benevolent neutrality, but this benevolence sometimes takes a form that was not appreciated. Whenever a revolution starts in Honduras, for example, the cynical Central Americans are in the habit of saying that it is a revolution against Guatemala, or in favor of Guatemala, as the case may be. The President of Guatemala, naturally desiring a friendly president in Honduras, and hence it has happened that the Honduras president sometimes has been a protégé of the Guatemalan executive.

The internal situation of Guatemala is the test by which the country's relations with Mexico and the other Central American countries will be determined. The Guatemalan revolutionists and their abettors in the rest of Central America and in the United States, however, are not so much concerned with the internal situation of Guatemala as they are with the external situation.

When the circumstances are so poor that misery has taken up an abode in Washington, still less can it be expected that any other place will be any better. The requirements of a home compass in a plan of such minute architectural proportions.

Houses are to be seen in every quarter of the town that look like rude toys by comparison with palatial abodes that are often near neighbors, but there is something about the smallest that betokens the human impulse within. They are almost never altogether ugly and mean.

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THE CATHEDRAL IN GUATEMALA CITY.

The worst thing about Guatemala is its monetary system. The pan-American financial conference in Washington in one of its group conference reports sought to analyze the situation in Guatemala. It discovered that the monetary system needed reorganization, and that the people needed better credit facilities. The large volume of paper notes outstanding has greatly depreciated the buying power of the people, but the worst effect on which the pan-American group did not touch, has been the loss of wages to the working population.

The pan-American group found that it would be necessary for Guatemala to borrow \$12,000,000 in gold to place and maintain the country on a gold standard. A loan in the United States was suggested for that purpose.

American financiers heretofore have been somewhat shy of financing Guatemala, though a few years ago plans were fairly well advanced for the establishment of an American bank. They fell through, for various reasons, including the uncertainty as to the means of refunding the debt and the generally unsatisfactory economic situation.

The Germans still are the predominant financial power in Guatemala, notwithstanding the interruption to their trade caused by the world war. Their investments in coffee plantations amount to \$12,000,000. They show no eagerness to let go these investments.

The largest investment which the United States may be said to have in the railways, the outcome of C. P. Huntington's original investment. Part of the capital of the railways has been supplied by the sale of bonds in Europe, yet the companies are generally looked upon as an American investment, and in the case of trouble the investors unquestionably would look to the United States for protection.

The United States now takes more of the Guatemalan coffee crop, and the business on both sides is growing. Theirs may be one reason why President Cabrera expects this country to discourage the revolutionary element, which looks to the Washington administration to lend its moral influence to ending his rule in Guatemala, because he is another Diaz.

Despite William Penn, Washington Is True "City of Brotherly Love"

Even More Than Philadelphia, Washington Is a City of Brotherly Love—"The Gold Coast"—Friendship a Notable Feature of Washington Life. On the Street Cars. Real Neighbors—A City of Homes and Home Ties—Bonds of Union Between Workers for Uncle Sam—The Army and Navy Set.

foreign stomach specialist has amassed a fortune at \$40 per plate out of the domestic corps, whose intelligent digestion rebel against food and drink devised for the sake of spending money. Bitter as bile have been the denunciations in German, French, English, Russian, Scandinavian and Chinese of what is called cream on clam broth and salad of alligator pears served in banana skins. Also with the painful gurgling in the doctor's office would come from the poor profited; for ever since a struggling teacher of French has earned a certain amount of money by the season spelling the French on menu cards of the wealthy at \$3 per.

But pigtail of money as is the gold coast, money is probably less important in Washington than in any other American city, and no one should be deterred by the lack of fortune from coming here to live. Absolute and perfect equality are as active as ever in Washington, and the crown of the Joy



"FRIENDSHIP HOUSE"—324 VIRGINIA AVENUE SOUTHEAST.

of living here is available to all—friendship.

Of course, everybody everywhere has friends, but that is not the friendship that prevails in Washington. It is something which, emanating from the people, is, after all, independent of individuals and belongs to the city itself, making it a unique thing in the National Capital that is death to ill-nature and to gloom. In other cities street cars are just plain street cars; in Washington they are great arteries of friendship. Any one who is poor, yet leisurely enough to ride in street cars here, may reason-

ably feel sorry for the rich and rushing in a motor car, but they would be quick to wave their hands to the motorman as confidently as they would be quick to get out of the car and stop, whereupon not only conductor and motorman, but everybody in the car waits with the greatest interest for the old dear to come aboard.

By the time they are good and settled, and everybody else is likely as likely as not they sight a friend down at the other end of the car or in the middle of the opposite side. They call out, "Why, how do you do, Maria," or "Oh, I didn't see you, William," and then everybody takes notice that particular friends are separated, and there commences a general hitching and begging of pardons, and somebody will stand up or hang to a strap—anything necessary to let true friends get together side by side.

Riding on street cars in Washington requires almost constant hitching in the exercise of friendship, but this is far less uncomfortable than the shoving one gets at a fashionable church wedding or a big reception, and while the social air is just as marked, the friendly spirit is far more manifest.

It was "going some," even for Washington friendship, when one day on Capitol Hill a lady on a street car trying to read a "For Rent" sign on a house in passing saved her neighbor's tones to the conductor, "Oh, dear me, my sight is so poor I can't see the sign on that sign and I like that house."

Instantly the conductor stopped the car, got off, ran up to the house, wrote down the real estate agent's name, hastened back to the car, handed the address to the lady, saying, "Here you are," and then pulled the bell rope to start the car, as though nothing unusual had happened.

Neighborhood relations are the fragrant wild honeysuckle in Washington's garden of friendship. It is quite common to know one's next door neighbor not only well enough to call, but even to borrow and lend—and the acid test of friendship—to quarrel. It was in a very select neighborhood that a lady of considerable civic distinction laboring under the classic obsession of the night—a man in the house—had blown a police whistle out the front window. The next day a neighbor across the way observed to a small son of the lady, "Your mamma had a fright last night, didn't she?"

"No, ma'am," replied the angel child, who had not heard quite distinctly; "Mamma didn't have no fight last night, it was yesterday morning mamma had a fight with Mrs. X— (the neighbor next door); they were fighting 'cause Mrs. X— tried to hire away our cook."

If the neighbor on the left succeeds in hiring a cook and taking away the neighbor on the right happens to be originally from Virginia she will send in

and security of a householder. Never anywhere else perhaps were the requirements of a home compass in a plan of such minute architectural proportions.

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extent of a kind of industrial fellowship which civil service contributes to the welfare of the nation. Another branch of service for the government in a more spectacular way contributes to it also. That is the army and navy.

Fellowship in either arm of the defense of the nation is particularly deep and strong. Whether men and families live in communities as at the navy yard, the barracks, in Washington, or in certain rows by accident in such numbers that one speaks of Army row, or looks for navy people on such streets, a genuine fam-

One will be dropping along in a Connecticut avenue car around lunch time, and the attention is arrested by the stumpy movement with which a well-set-up man comes aboard; there is a kind of alertness about his eye (which is not bloodshot and bulging), and an expression boyish, even in old men; tender, too, as a woman's, flashes for an instant at the sight of another of the same general appearance as himself, whom he greets by his first name, if not by a nickname, and everybody hitching, of course—these comrades at arms sit down together, a fine spectacle of friendship plus efficiency, which, in brief, is patriotism reduced to a working basis.

In a Boston paper the other day appeared a long letter from a man who had been in the Plattsburg camp, and a large portion of the letter was devoted to conscientiously trying to prove to the supposedly doubting world what his experience at Plattsburg had affirmed to his own evident astonishment. The army officers are not scheming to plunge the nation into war in order to better their situation, as the Boston contrary, all the officers he had met at Plattsburg were—if one can believe it—quite intelligent, and even patriotic human beings.

Popular-priced excursions to Washington taste the city in a way that ship here might prove as much in the interest of preparedness. In any case, the experience in friendship to be had for 5 cents on any Washington street car would make such excursion profitable—particularly to people from Boston.

It was a discerning little manœuvre girl on F Street, who, with tears in her friendly eyes, said, "I'm just as mad as I can be to think that Boston won the world series, for goodness sake, Boston people were stuck up enough before!"

AROLF.